cultivation during the last two years, are as under:—

YEAR	AREA (000HA)
1994-95	83.0
1995-96	132.0

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. The financial assistance for conducting research on Sugarcane in the State of Punjab was provided to the tune of Rs. 4.53 lakhs & Rs. 6.24 lakhs during 1994-95 & 1995-96, respectively by Indian council of Agricultural Research through All-India Coordinated Research Project on Sugarcane.

For increasing production and productivity of sugarcane, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System Areas (SUBACS) was launched in 1995-96. This scheme is bieng implemented in 21 States/UTs including Punjab on 75:25 percent sharing basis between Government of india and State Government. The main thrust of the scheme is on the transfer of technology to the farmers through field demonstrations, training of farmers/extension workers, supply of farm implements, seed production etc.

An amount of Rs. 124.40 lakh as Central Share was allocated to the State of Punjab during 1995-96 for the implementation of the scheme.

Review of Performance of Railways

791. SHRI LAKKHIRAM AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether on the 5th November, 1996 a Conference of Controllers of Stores, Inventory Managers of Zonal Railways and production units was held to review the mid-year performance of the Annual Plan of Railways during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the shortcomings pointed out by the Hon'ble Minister on the performance of Railways; and

(c) the details of action taken so far on the suggestions made by him?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir. However, its scope was restricted to only material management aspects.

(b) No shortcoming as such were pointed out. However, following areas were suggested for further improvement:—

(1) maintenance of rolling stock.

(2) procurement of materials of better quality.

(3) costing of materials being procured so as to arrive at reasonableness of rates.

(4) checking of quality & quantity of materials received in depots.

(5) fixing quality norms or standards for the materials being procured and follow Open Tender System as far as possible.

(c) The suggestions are under processing.

Proposal for Development of Chilka Lake

792. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal for the development of Chilka lake;

(b) whether any scheme has been prepared either by the State Government or the Central Government for the above purpose; and

(c) if so, the fund earmarked under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPTAIN JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) to (c) Chilka lake is designated as one of the wetlands of international importance under Ramsar Convention and is also covered under the National Programme for the Conservation and Management of Wetlands. An amount of Rs. 112.30 lakh ha- been provided to the Government of Oriss by the Union Ministry of Environment a Forests to the Government of Orissa for conservation in the catchment area, h improvement of Nalabana, database and generating awareness un programme. The 10th Finance Comm recommended an amount of Rs. 27 the Government of Orissa for 'Prese Chilka Lake' under Special Probler The Government of India has acce

rccommendations of the Commission. Accordingly an action plan for Chilka Lake for 1996-2000, prepared by the Government of Orissa, has been approved by the Inter Ministerial Empowered Committee of the Ministry of Finance.

Role of ICAR

793. DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ICAR produces only prototypes and undertakes manufacturing promotion activities through interaction with the agriculture machinery manufacturers and supplies drawings to them;

(b) whether the ICAR does not involve itself in the manufacturing, supply, cost evaluation, control with the result that the farmers do not genuine certified products/machinery at reasonable cost and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) The workshop facilities available with the research centres and institutes of ICAR are basically research and development oriented. The institute/projects engaged in prototype development, do interact with manufacturing industries as a promotional avenue for the developed equipment.

(b) Large scale commercial manufacturing comparable to a well established manufacturing industries is neither feasible nor contemplated. The ICAR only make prototype at the research centres taking care of quality control and safety aspects. Relevant BIS standards are followed whenever available for the manufacturing and testing of prototypes.

(c) The ICAR has started a Revolving fund scheme. Under this scheme the institutions are given an interest free loan. Using this loan, the institute/project produces equipment for sale and pays back to the ICAR to the extent of the initial loans amount from the profit generated. Proper quality standards are maintained in the fabrication of the equipment.

कमला-बलान रेल-पुल की मरम्मत

794. श्री रामदेव भंडारी: क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या गत वर्ष के दौरान उत्तर-पूर्व रेलवे के झांझारपुर-लौहना स्टेशन के बीच कमला-बलान नदी पर स्थित रेल-पुल की मरम्मत का कार्य पूरा कर लिया गया था,

(ख) उस पर कुल कितनी राशि खर्च की गई और यह कार्य कब पूरा किया गया;

(ग) क्या पुल की हालत फिर से खराब हो गई है;

(घ) क्या पुल की मरम्मत के कार्य हेतु धनराशि में कोई घोटाला किया गया था; और

(ङ) क्या सरकार इस मामले में कोई जांच कराएगी?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सतपाल महाराज): (क) कार्य 93-94 में पूरा किया गया।

(ख) रु॰ 29,94,360/-रु. 31.3.1994

(ग) जी नहीं,

(घ) जी नहीं,

(ङ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता.

Endangered Rhino of Kaziranga

795. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJI-RAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken to protect and preserve Kaziranga as the natural habitat of the Rhino in the context of the report in the "Pioneer" dated the 19th June, 1996; and

(b) the estimated population of Rhino at present and how it compares with that in 1991?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) The State Government of Assam have reported that they are facing a serious financial problem in maintaining the Kaziranga National Park, after the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "Conservation of rhinos in Assam" was transferred to the state alongwith its resources in 1992-93. They have, therefore,